

INTRODUCTION.

The Jain Church at the present age is mainly divided into two sects—the Svetambaras and Digambaras with several other minor sub-sects. Great sanctity is attached by the Jains to the *Kalyanak* places associated with the lives and careers of their Tirthankars. These are:—

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|-----|-------------|-------|----|----------------------------|
| (1) | Chyavan— | place | of | conception. |
| (2) | Janma— | " | " | birth. |
| (3) | Diksha— | " | " | initiation. |
| (4) | Kevala Jnan | " | " | attainment of omniscience. |
| (5) | Nirvana— | " | " | emancipation. |

There is some difference in the nomenclature and identity of these spots among the sects, but as regards Tirtha Pawapuri, both the Svetambaras and Digambaras are at one, and acknowledge it as the place where the last Tirthankar attained *Moksha*. The temple in the village marks the spot where Lord Mahavira breathed his last, and the temple in the middle of the lake points out the spot where he was cremated. The lake or the big tank is about a mile in circuit. According to tradition the number of people who attended the funeral ceremony was so huge that the mere act of taking off a pinch of ashes created such a deep hollow all around that the place soon became transformed into the present tank. There is a stone bridge about 600 feet in length across it from the bank to the temple, built in the shape of a Vimana. At the proper season of the year when the lake is full of the blossoming lotuses the scenery of the place is really entrancing. The picturesque temple with its dazzling whiteness forming a suitable background with the hills of Rajgir at a distance, and the tall *tal* trees scattered here and there add infinite charm to the landscape, so that the whole thing is a feast of light and colour to the eyes of the visitors and pilgrims.

The village temple is rather a tall structure of the same type within a big compound containing very commodious Dharamsalas with all necessities for the comforts of the pilgrims. The dedicatory stone of the temple records the restoration of Tirtha Pawapuri during the reign of Shah Jehan in 1641 A. D. by the Svetambara Sangha of Bihar town, under Acharya Jinaraj Suri of the Kharatara Gachha. The following extracts from the Visitors' Remark Book from 1909 up-to-date will speak for themselves as to the present state of affairs of this Tirtha under the able management of the Honorary Manager, Babu Dhannulal Suchanti of Bihar.

PAWAPURI,
March 1925

PURAN CHAND NAHAR.



Jahmandir at Pāwāpuri (North view).

EXTRACTS FROM VISITORS' REMARK BOOK.

I visited the temple with some of my friends this morning. I was shown over all the places and I found them perfectly neat and clean. This reflects much credit on the management. I also find that every effort is being made for re-excavation of the tank. This is indeed a laudable idea. On the whole I spent a couple of hours in a most agreeable manner.

(Sd.) SHAMSHAIR J. BAHADUR,

Asst. Settlement Officer.

28th May, 1909.

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I have much pleasure to say that the arrangement of the Temple worship etc. is proper. Staff of the Bhandar very attentive. Sincere thanks are due to Babu Dhanu Lal for due attention.

(Sd.) RAI KUMAR SINGH.

3rd November, 1910.

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I visited Pawapuri with Mrs. Maude this morning and we were very kindly shown the various temples and Dharamsalas, which are in the charge of the Swatambaris, by the younger brother of the manager. We visited first the temple in the lake which marks the spot where the last Thirthankar, Mahabira, was burned after his death. From there we went to the Temple which was erected on the spot where he died, and thence to the further temple erected on the spot where he attained to salvation. This last temple is especially beautiful in its internal decoration; and like all the Jain Temples is kept with great care and in a state of perfect cleanliness and order. The tasslated marble floors of the various shrines are beautifully kept and of themselves worth seeing. We were also shown the dharamsala attached to the Temple, which unlike many dharamsalas, is clean and carefully looked after. The needs of the pilgrims are well seen to, even to the point of providing properly boiled water. There was a large gathering here on October last, on the anniversary of the death of Mahabira.

Altogether we were much pleased with all that we saw and with the attention that was shown to us.

(Sd.) W. MAUDE, I. C. S.

Commissioner of Patna.

November, 23rd 1910.

I visited the shrines yesterday and have much pleasure in stating that Mr. Dhanulalji is in sole charge of the temples, is paying all care and attention after the management. The staff is all attentive and obedient. The income, of Pokharpur which is specially meant for Jalmandir, is I am sorry to say, not given him by Maharaj Bahadur Singh. I hope he will be kind enough to pay attention to this matter so that the income may be utilised for the purpose.

Pavapuri,
5th March, 1911.

(Sd.) KALIDAS G. SHAH.

Ahmedabad.

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I was shown round the Temples at Pawapuri by my esteemed friend Babu Lakshmi Chand Suchanti of Behar, and was highly delighted with what I saw. I had never been here before and I think the one hour and a half I spent here were very well spent. The marble floor and tile-work are specially agreeable.

(Sd.) ABUL HOSSAIN M. TAIB.

27th February, 1912.

Dy. Magte.

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Pavapurijec.

I visited this ancient place on this date and find the management beautifully carried and the comforts given to pilgrims is very praiseworthy. Their ways of treatment to visitors is worth copying by other Jain managements in various other places.

(Sd.) KIKABHAI PREMCHAND,

5th January, 1913.

of Bombay.

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On our pilgrimage to Pawapuri we visited all the Jain-Swetambari temples. One is in the town where Mahavir Swami attained nirvana (salvation) other is in the lake where the body of Mahavir Swami was burned after the death. There is one temple built by Babooji Budhshingi of Azimganj and there are Dharamsalas of Budh Singh, Setab Chandji and Hurrak Chandji. The management of temple is carried on by a manager Surajmal under the direct supervision of Babu Dhanoolalji of Behar. The servants of the Karkhana are obedient and attentive and management is carried on properly and satisfactorily.

(Sd.) HEERALAL MANSHARAM,

Vakil,

5th May, 1914.

KESHAVLAL MAGAN LAL.

Ahmedabad.

I came here on the 7th Nov. 1915 on pilgrimage to this sacred place and was much charmed to see the efficient management and neatness of the temple. I heartily thank the manager.

(Sd.) KESRISINGH.

(Rai Saheb.)

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I visited Pawapuri at the special invitation of my esteemed friend Babu Puranchand Nahar, M. A., B. L., and put up at the Dharamsala built by his respected father Rai Bahadur Setab Chand Nahar. I was extremely pleased with all that I saw and cannot speak too highly of the excellent arrangement made at the Dharamsala for the comfort of the pilgrims and other visitors. The temple of Sri Sri Mahavirji is of historic interest and amply repays the trouble of a long journey. The situation is beautiful and the surroundings are inspiring.

(Sd.) SATYENDRA NATH SEN.

(Rai Bahadur)

Editor, Indian Mirror.

Calcutta.

10th November, 1915.

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I have much pleasure to say that the arrangement of the temple-worship is proper. The staff of the Bhandar is very attentive. The Karkhana is managed very nicely. Sincere thanks are due to Babu Dhannulalji and his brothers for due attention.

(Sd.) JUMNABHAI BHAGOOBHAI,

of Ahmedabad.

27th November, 1916.

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I visited this evening the various temples and Dharamsalas which are in charge of Babu Dhanu Lall of Bihar town. I first saw the temple in the lake which is called the Jalmandir and then the village temple; both these temples, like all the Jain temples, are kept with great care and in a state of perfect cleanliness. The tassellated marble floors and walls of the lake temple are worth seeing. The Swetambari Dharamsala was found neat and tidy and carefully looked after.

I was extremely pleased with all that I saw and with the attention that was shown to me by the pujeris.

(Sd.) SHAMSUDDIN HAIDER.

Sub-Divisional Magt. Behar.

26th November, 1916.

Camp, Pawa.

We had great pleasure in visiting this place and fully satisfied with the conveniences for the visitors. We have to suggest one thing and it is this. Old Padukas require to be preserved, and it is therefore necessary that they should not be more dilapidated by use of suffron. For antiquities sake it is necessary to preserve the old monuments.

(Sd.) MOTICHAND KAPADIA.

Solicitor, Bombay.

Pawapuri.
1st January, 1917.

NAURATANDASS BHANJJI,
Kapadia.

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I visited the temples at Pawapuri this morning with Mrs. Gruning and was shown round by the brother of the manager. We were greatly interested in all we saw, and I am much indebted to our guide and to the priests for their kindness and courtesy. The temples are beautifully kept, and the Dharamsalas are models of what such places should be.

(Sd.) JOHN. F. GRUNING.

23rd January, 1917.

Commissioner,
Patna.

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I and the S. D. O. and the Munsif and the second officer visited Pawapuri this morning. We were shown over all the places of interest by the brother of the manager. I was very pleased at the arrangements there for the comforts of the visitors. The place is a holy one and is very well kept by the manager.

(Sd.) ASHUTOSH CHATTERJEE.

the 27th August, 1919.

District Judge,
Patna.

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I fully endorse the view of my learned Dt. Judge about the sacred temples in Pawapuri. These are beautifully kept and the Dharamsalas are models of neatness and cleanliness. Everything we saw there bespoke of the efficient management of the gentleman in charge of it.

(Sd.) RAM CH. CHAUDHURY.

the 19th September, 1919.

Munsiff,
Behar.

Through the courtesy of my friend Babu Lakshmi Chand Suchanti I was invited to visit the temple of Puri. I was struck by the exceedingly beautiful temples which are said to have been as old as eighteen hundred years. I suppose the temples are a pride to this part of the country. The management of the temples with the attached Dharamsalas is much better than what I have seen in most of the sacred places in the country. In conclusion I express my gratitude to Mr. Suchanti for his personal interest in taking me round to the various temples and the Dharamsalas.

(Sd.) BALDEO SAHEY, M. A., B. L

24th October, 1919.

Pleader, Patna.

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We visited the Pawapuri Temples this morning. The guides who attended at the direction of Babu Lakshmi Chand Suchanti were all attentive to us. The dharamsalas are quite clean and the attendants very courteous. The temples stand on places which mark the important events in the life of the twenty-fourth Tirthankar Sri Sri Mahavir Swami and are as such resorted to by a very large number of Jains. The road leading to it is not what is desirable in a place of such importance. If the manager moves in the matter I shall try my best to make the authorities take some interest in it.

(Sd.) SURENDRA N. SEN.

28th December, 1920.

S. D. O. Bihar,

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I had the honour to visit this holy place with my family. I found everything in good order and the Moonim and the servants most attentive to their duties and looking to the comforts and needs of the pilgrims.

What I found most surprising, was the very poor pays the servants were drawing. To keep them strictly honest and loyal to their duties, it is very desirable, their pays should be increased so far at least to maintain themselves properly.

(Sd.) CHOTALAL PREMJI.

Pawapuri, 9th January.
1921. 8 p.m.

Mangrol (Kattiawar)

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I came here on a pilgrimage and stayed here for two days. All the dharamsalas are kept very clean and neat. The temples are well looked after by the poojaries and poojas regularly done. The sub-manager (moonim) Mr. Toofani Pandey is very obliging and does his best to make pilgrims com-

portable. I had the occasion to visit almost three or four big Tirths of this side and I think this is the best managed place. I congratulate Mr. Dhannulal Sahab Suchanti for his good management and selection of proper persons in proper places.

(Sd.) MUHTA SUMERCHAND.

30th February, 1931.
Sri Pawapuri.

Superintendent of Excise,
Salt and Registration. Jodhpur State.

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I was shown round all the temples and Dharamsalas by my friend Babu Keshari Chand Suchanti and I was most delighted with all that I saw. This appears to be one of the most charming spot in Bihar. I am told there is a proposal to cleanse up the tank but apparently unsurmountable difficulty seems to be to Jain Community is the apprehension lest some of the millions of lives that inhabited the tank may be lost. I am sure this difficulty could be overcome and in any case it seems most desirable to renovate the lake. This will add much to the beauty of the place, improve sanitation and prevent the lake from drying up altogether. The gardens within the Dharamsalas are most soothing spots but there is considerable room for improvement by adding some more good roses and other lovely flowers.

(Sd.) MOHIUDDIN AHMED.

6th March 1922.

Reg. Co-operative Societies.

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Visited the temple and dharamsalas to-day in company with the S. D. O. Bihar, and were kindly shown round by Babu Puran Chand Nahar, whose mother Bibi Golap Kumari has endowed a very fine dharamsala. A mela is going on, attended by a great many beggars of whom a large proportion are said to be lepers. I have informed Babu Puran Chand Nahar that it is considered that a cure for leprosy has been discovered and that the treatment can be administered by the Assistant Surgeon, Bihar. The S. D. O. informs me that three lepers are under treatment there at present, who show considerable improvement, but the great difficulty is to provide accommodation for the lepers and to support them while they are under treatment. If these conditions were fulfilled he is of opinion that a very large number would come. Unfortunately the original grants of Rs. 1000 from the Prince of Wales Reception fund and Rs. 300 from the Behar Landholders association are nearly exhausted. I hope the member of the Jain Community many of whom are very wealthy will not content themselves with giving charity to the lepers who come to attend the mela, but will give a grant to enable them to be supplied with treatment, and send them on to Behar for the purpose as soon as the mela is over. If this is done they will at a small cost confer a great blessing on the most unfortunate section of the community.

(Sd.) J. JOHNSTON.

21st November, 1922.

Addl Dt Magistrate.

I have visited these temples of Pavapuri most sacred as they are the last remembrance of Charam Tirthankar Shree Mahavir Swami. I have been much pleased with the arrangement and the attendance of the staff. Only thing which pains me most is the sight of foreign tiles on the wall at Jalmandir. It is a blot on the Indian art. I hope in future no tiles of this type may be encouraged. Another thing which I can humbly bring to the notice of the managing Board is the use of saffron—keshar which should be stopped again. At many temples it has been quite stopped. I cannot discuss the point here but I request the managers in charge to stop its use as soon as possible.

(Sd.) DR. TRIBHONDAS DHARMCHAND SHAH.

M. B., B. S.

9th January, 1923.

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Mrs. Owen and myself spent a very pleasant evening visiting Pavapuri and its temples and dharamsalas under the guidance of Babu Lakshmi Chand Suchanti. It is a beautiful place and the characteristic generosity of this Jain community towards religious objects is displayed here more lavishly than usual. It only needs a hospital to make it a model pilgrim centre.

(Sd.) G. E. OWEN.

District Magistrate, Patna.

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I have a pleasant trip to this sacred place of Pavapuri to-day. The holy temple and other places of interest have been very carefully shown to me by Babu Lakshmi Chand Suchanti to whom I feel very much obliged. The temples and the dharamsalas are very pleasant sights and well taken care of. Everything appears to be in a good order and there is a perfect cleanliness breathing in and all around. What struck me is the particular attention given to the visitors of this holy place by the staff who are concerned with the management of the place. And it appears to me that there is a great want of a hospital and I hope cases would be taken for the construction of a hospital as soon as possible.

(Sd.) TEKANATH JHA.

Munsif.

(Bihar)

3rd March, 1924.

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I paid a visit to this place in company with Babu Lakshmi Chand Suchanti and spent a night. The generosity of the Jain Community is well-known, and it would be unnecessary for me to say that every possible material comfort was given to us. The place is remarkably beautiful, the temples are splendid,

and the management excellent. But the most striking thing is the holy spiritual atmosphere laden with the memory of the great Tirthankar Mahabir, which chastens one's spirit; and soothes his soul, and I believe I would never forget the feeling I had during my short stay here.

The one great attempt of the Jain Community is to alleviate the miseries of not only suffering humanity, but of even lower animals. And in this view, I believe one wonders why there should not have been a hospital here, an institution which aims at alleviating man's miseries, and to this deserving of the primary attention of the Jain Community. I am sure that once the want is known to the community, funds would be forthcoming in abundance from the wealthy and the charitable, and Pawapuri would be able to boast of a Hospital in keeping with the splendid temples and nice environments, in no distant future.

(Sd.) GIRINDRA NATH GANGULY,

Munsiff, Bihar.

19th April 1924.

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I have been asked to record my impressions at the completion of our short visit on a full moon night the 18th of May 1924.

The temples are beautiful and bathed in moon-light. Their charm is indescribable. To me the appeal has been purely of an aesthetic nature and I have not been able to experience the spiritual suggestions and influences the temples are supposed to convey.

The fundamental and basic principle of Jainism is respect for life—life universal in its humblest as well as most august manifestations. This principle is or should be the source of all our moral ideas; as well as their ultimate sanction. This is why Jainism is essentially moral and beautiful. The inward spiritual attitude should have its co-ordination in the physical beauty of the object of worship. This explains the aesthetic side of Jain religion, which finds its culminative in works of supreme art as the Dilwara temples on mount Abu. I shall long remember this brief visit.

18th May, 1924.

(Sd.) N. P. THADANI, I. C. S.

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I am required to record my impressions on my visit to Pawapuri. I am afraid I shall not be able to do justice adequate justice—to all that I saw and heard there. When I look back to my past years and recall for a moment which gave me so much pleasure I find very few indeed. I spent about 8 hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and although the time was not embracing, intensely hot as it is, I am perfectly sure I cannot forget Pawapuri, the sacred place and the fascinating scenery. To an Indian mind whom sanctity of place coupled with na-

tural scenery all around, affords not a little pleasure, Pawapuri can appeal with its charms. This is a place fit for the meditation of Rishis and Jogis and an excellent relieving place for the burdened mind which has to spend most of its time in the din and hustle of the town life. This is a place which Behar can boast of. Although I went to see Jalmandir at 12 a. m. I could not help stealing a corner of the temple for my amusing reflections. Sitting all alone, with my eyes towards the encircling lake paved with lotus leaves and flowers, I breathed the most pious and elevating air of the sacred and charming place. Jainism which worships life (and not the person) coming down even to animals, there is no wonder that the place of the last remains of the Great Shree Mahavir should inspire an universal love and brotherly affection for all creatures of the world. Last Winter, when I visited Shantiniketan of Tagore, I found it a place fit for imparting education to the youths of the country and I was equally overjoyed to hear from Lakshmi Babu that he too is contemplating of starting a school with boarding house for the religious and vocational education of the youths of Behar. Nothing can be nobler and more befitting to the last remains and the salvation-place of the Great Soul than this. I wish every success to this noble suggestion.

The management of the place is simply excellent. I do not think any religious place is so well managed, or why the trouble which faces India to-day in this connexion. A visitor should be assured of all the possible comforts even to beds and utensils. The servants are all well trained and what struck me most is that there is no looting and robbing (by the pandas) which characterise all the religious places of India. Even family accommodations have been made in the attached dharamsalas. I can not help recording the apathy of the District Board authorities for not having a good pucca road to connect this sacred and beautiful place. It would indeed be a worthy expenditure if a hospital is attached to this place as has been well remarked by other visitors.

My hearty thanks are due to Babu Lakshmi Chand Suchanti who took the trouble of accompanying me to Pavapuri. All the additions and improvements are the fruits of his keen interest and indefatigable efforts. I cannot help thanking his relation, my friend Babu Abhoy Chand Seth, of Calcutta, who suggested me to visit this place when we happened to know each other in our last railway journey and who was also kind enough to accompany me.

I wish I could spend a moonlit night at Pavapuri.

(Sd.) KRIPA NARAYAN SINGH.

3rd June, 1924.

Deputy Magistrate,

Patna.

I reached here last evening to pass Chaturmasya Chaturdasi to-day at Pawapuri. It was raining at night but the day was enjoyable and I celebrated my fast quite comfortably. Great inconvenience is felt both by the pilgrims and the people of the locality especially in this rainy season on account of the Katcha feeder road from the main road to the temple. The authorities should be moved to expedite the metalling of this road which is a much needed want.

I am further glad to find that the necessity of opening a Dispensary in the locality has attracted attention of some of our distinguished visitors. I sincerely appeal both to my Jain brothers and temple authorities to come forward with substantial help towards the establishment of such an institution.

The desirability of starting a library of Jain Literature and of publishing a guide or Hand-book dealing with a short history of the place with suitable plates should also be considered as important items to be taken up as early as possible.

In other respects the management is everything that can be desired.

(Sd.) PURAN CHAND NAHAR. (M. A., B. L.)

Pawapuri.
15th July, 1924.

of 48, Indian Mirror Street, Calcutta.

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I visited Pawapuri this day in company with some friends. Sj. Lachmi-chand Suchanti, who very kindly took the trouble to accompany us all the way from Bihar Sharif, showed us through the various temples and dharamsalas. All the places are scrupulously clear and well kept and seemed to be well-managed.

Any one visiting this side of Bihar should not fail to visit this holy place of the Jains.

(Sd.) AGHORE NATH GHOSH, M. B.

10th October, 1924.

Medical Practitioner,

30, Bindaban Mullick Lane, Calcutta.

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I visited Pawapuri temples and dharamsalas to-day and was taken round the places by my esteemed friend Babu Lachmi Chand Suchanti Hon. Magistrate. I found signs of efficient management everywhere and for this great credit is due to Babu Lachmi Chand Suchanti. The temples are beautifully kept and dharamsalas are models to be copied elsewhere. I am extremely grateful to Babu Lachmi Chand Suchanti for taking the trouble of taking me round the sacred place.

Beharsharif.

10th November, 1924.

(Sd.) SYED OZER.

Dy. Magistrate & 2nd Officer.

I came here on pilgrimage after a number of years and as the Visitors' Remark Book has been shown to me for the first time I record with pleasure my impressions about this holy place. The late Babu Govind Chand Suchanti of Bihar managed the shrines and Dharamsalas to the great satisfaction of our community. After his death our Swetanbar Sri Sungh has elected his eldest son Babu Dhanu Lal Suchanti as the manager and he carries on the work with great zeal and efficiency. Among the improvements I find considerable additions of new buildings in Narottan Dharamsala compound for the use of pilgrims whose number is increasing year by year. The other is the re-excavation of the large and beautiful tank in the centre of which the holy shrine "Jal Mandir" is situated. One cannot keep admiring the generosity of the lady Bibi Chuni Kumari of Azimganj who has borne the entire cost of the work amounting to nearly Rupees Forty thousand. It has also given me great pleasure to see the "Dinsala" constructed by my brother Puran Chand Nahar, M. A., B. L. which affords shelter to the great number of beggars who gather here on the occasion of Nirvana anniversary to receive charities from pilgrims. I am very glad to learn from Babu Lakshmi Chand Suchanti, the brother of Babu Danulal Suchanti the manager, that the Dt. Board of Patna of which he is a member has decided to establish a charitable Dispensary here soon. This would remove a long felt want of this locality. Our last thanks are due to the members of the District Board for having had the road leading to the temple metalled recently. This has enabled motor cars, lorries to run right up to the temple to the great convenience of pilgrims. I would avail of this opportunity of drawing the attention of the manager to move the proper authorities to establish a Post office. This institution would be of great usefulness to the surrounding villagers and to the pilgrims who come here from different parts of India. As my stay here has been too short, I defer making further suggestions until my next visit.

(Sd.) MANILAL NAHAR.

of Calcutta, (Rai Bahadur.)

29th October, 1924.

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I have spent another delightful and instructive evening at Pawapuri under the escort of Babu Lachmi Chand Suchanti. I am glad to hear that the District Board have now agreed to send a doctor here; and though a surgeon would have been even more useful, no doubt one can be got later if the experiment with a doctor shows a strong demand. It is now time to think of the animals and really good hospital for cows and bullocks which are past time-work would be a great object for the well-known charity and universal piety of the Jain Community.

I went round every Dharamsala, and found all of them neat and clean.

17th November, 1924.

(Sd.) G. E. OWEN I. C. S.

I had paid my homage for the first time in my life to the sacred place of the ravana of our last Lord Mahavir Swami and I was so full of emotion owing to memories becoming fresh in my mind that during my short sojourn there I did not the time to look to anything with a critic's eye but I have found the management satisfactory and the staff ready to help the pilgrims in every possible way. What additions and alterations I had thought of, have been so ably carried down overleaf by my esteemed friend Babu Rai Kumarsinghji Mookim Calcutta and I have the pleasure to endorse them and draw the attention of the management to make such additions and alterations as suggested. From an aesthetic point of view I would wish that the R. B. Budhsinghji and the Jaganmohan temples with lofty pinacles should not have been built at all as they overleap the height of the sacred Jalmandir and hide it from the view of the approaching pilgrims. I am satisfied to learn that no such encroachments will be allowed in future. I wish the management every success and when I chance to come again as I hope I shall be able to pay a visit a second time, I shall make it a point to study everything minutely and then pass such remarks as may appear necessary.

(Sd.) GULAB CHAND DHADHA, M.A.

24th November, 1924.

of Jaipur (Rajputana).

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I had great pleasure in visiting this sacred place both because of its beautiful situation and scenery and because of its sacredness. The place has been well looked after, which every credit must be given to the management. I am specially thankful to the management for all kinds of comforts and conveniences that were provided to me. Politeness is the special characteristic of this place, which is to be rarely found in such other institutions.

(Sd.) N. J. SHAH.

30th December, 1924.

Benares Hindu University.

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On very kind importunity of my friend Babu Puran Chand Nahar, I paid a flying visit of my deep homage to the shrines of Pavapuri, and for the pleasure and merit, I must record my heart-felt thanks to Babu P. C. Nahar of Calcutta. Had it not been for his deep interest, I would have for once missed this opportunity of my homage to the sacred shrines of Pavapuri. In company with my friend Babu Jawahirlalji Suchanti of Bihar-Sharif, who kindly took me round all the holy places here, I found the entire management very satisfactory and the premises scrupulously clean. I wish here to record the thankfulness of the entire Jain community to the District Local Board for metalling the feeder to the temples, as also for having decided to open a Dispensary

ere. As my attention has been drawn to the necessity of widening and expanding the village temple of Lord Mahavir, which has been found not spacious enough for the huge concourse of pilgrims who assemble here for offering prayers at the time of Nirvana anniversary, I wish and earnestly request that the authorities concerned as well as the entire Jain Community will look to this matter in right earnest.

(Sd.) SHRICHAND A. MERCHANT.

B. A., L. L. B.

Pleader, Dhulia.

30th December, 1924.

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Visited the temple to-day and was much interested in all that I saw. Both the temple and its adjacent Dharmshalas are kept in excellent condition.

D. G. HALLETT.

Collector of Gaya.

17th January, 1925.

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I visited Pawapuri this morning and received a most cordial welcome from Babu Puran Chand Nahar and Lakshmi Chand Suchanti who very kindly showed me round all the Temples and Dharamsalas which present a very picturesque view from the main road. I was highly interested in all that I saw. Like all Jain buildings these are always kept in good repair and are scrupulously clean. I was told that the Dharamsala can now accommodate 1500 pilgrims. The Temples and the Dharamsalas form a most beautiful monument not only of the Nirvana of the Great religious teacher but also of the devotion and munificence of his followers.

(Sd.) B. C. SEN, I.C.S.

Commissioner of Patna.

27th January, 1925.

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For the first time I visited the temples at Pawapuri this morning. I am indebted to Babu Lakshmi Chand Suchanti who took me round and showed me all the interesting things. This is very fine place. Temples and Dharamsalas, especially the one in the tank present very picturesque view. Dharamsalas are quite clean and they have been kept in good repairs. Additions have recently been made in accommodation. It is creditable to the follower of

this religion to have preserved the old monuments and made additions to the Dharamsalas to make pilgrims comfortable.

(Sd.) FAKRUDDIN.

Bihar Sharif.

(Kt., K. B.)

2nd February, 1925.

Member of Executive B. & O.

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The Jain temples and Dharamsalas at Pawapuri are one of the chief attractions of this Sub-Division. A large number of pilgrims constantly visit the temples and it is always a source of pleasure to Babu Lakshmi Chand Suchanti, Honorary Magistrate of Bihar to have an opportunity of showing round the place to respectable visitors. The Dharamsalas can accommodate much over a thousand pilgrims and are always kept clean and tidy. A long-felt want in the shape of a Dispensary is about to be removed. The Manager has offered a suitable house with a recurring contribution to the District Board and the latter have decided upon starting the institution at no distant date. The Manager deserves great credit for the interest he takes in his work.

(Sd.) A. K. SINHA.

2nd February, 1925.

S. D. O. Bihar.

PAWAPURI TEMPLE PRASHASTI.

(Text)

- (१) ॥ १० ॥ स्वस्ति श्री संवति १६६८ वैशाख सुदि ५ सोमवासरे । पातिसाह श्री साहिजाह सरलनूर
- (२) मंडलाधीश्वर विजयि राज्ये ॥ श्री चतुर्विंशतितमजिनाधिराज श्री वीरवर्द्धमान स्वामी
- (३) निर्वाण कल्याणिक एवित्रित पावापुरी एरिसरे श्री वीर जिनवैत्यनिवेशः । श्री
- (४) ऋषभ जिनराज प्रथम पुत्र चक्रवर्त्ति श्री भरत महाराज सकल मंत्रिमंडल श्रेष्ठ मंत्रि श्रीदल सन्तानीय म-
- (५) हतिभाण क्षातिशृङ्गार चोपड़ा गोत्रीय संघनायक संघवी तुलसीदास भार्या निहालो पुत्र सं० संप्राम ।
- (६) लघुभ्रातृ गोवर्द्धन तेजपाल भोजराज । रोहदीय गोत्रीय मं० परमाणंद सपरिवार महधा गोत्रीय विशेष धर्म ।
- (७) कर्माध्यक्ष विधायक ठ० दुलीचंद काद्रड़ा गोत्रीय मं० मदन स्वामीदास मनोहर कुशला सुंदरदास रोहदिया ।
- (८) मथुरादास नारायणदास गिरिधर सन्तादास प्रतापी । घात्तिंदिया गो० गूजरमल्ल बूदड़मल्ल मोहनदास ।
- (९) माणिकचन्द बूदड़मल्ल जैठमल्ल ठ० जगन नूरीचन्द । नान्हरा गो० ठ० कल्याणमल्ल मल्लकचन्द समा-
- (१०) चन्द । संवेला गोत्रीय ठ० सिंभू कीर्त्तिपाल बाबू राय केसव राय हूरति सिंघ । काद्रड़ा गो० दयाल-
- (११) दास भोवालदास कृपालदास मीरसुरादीदास किलू । काणा गोत्रीय ठ० राजपाल रामचंद ॥
- (१२) महधा गो० कीर्त्तिसिंघ रो० छवीचन्द । जाजीयाण गो० मं० नथमल नंदलाल नान्हडा गोत्रीय ।
- (१३) ठ० सुंदरदास नागरमल्ल कमलदास ॥ रो० सुन्दर सूरति सूरति सवल हती प्रताप । पाहडिया ।
- (१४) गो० हेमराज भूयति । काणा गो० मोहन सुखमल्ल ठ० गढमल्ल जा० हरदास पुरसोत्तम । मीणवा-
- (१५) ण गो० विहारीदास पिंडु । मह० मेदनी भगवान गरीबदास साहरेणपुरीय जीदण । घजागरा गो० ।
- (१६) मल्लकचन्द जूक गो० सवल चन्दी संती । चो० गो० नरसिंघ हीरा घाम् उचम वर्द्धमान प्रमुख श्री ।

- (१७) बिहार वास्तव्य महतीयाण श्री संघेन कारितः तत् प्रतिष्ठा च श्री वृहत् खरतर गच्छा-
धीश्वर युगप्रधान श्री ।
- (१८) जिनसिंह सूरि पट्टप्रभाकर युगप्रधान श्री जिनराज सूरि विजयमान गुरुराजानामादेशेन
कृत ।
- (१९) पूर्वदेशविहारै युगप्रधान श्री जिनचंद्र सूरि शिष्य श्री समयराजोपाध्याय शिष्य वा०
अमयसुंदर ग-
- (२०) णि विनेय श्री कमललाभोपाध्यायैः शिष्य पं० लब्धकीर्ति गणि पं० राजहंस गणि
देवविजय ग-
- (२०) णि थिरकुमार चरणकुमार मेघकुमार जीवराज सांकर जसवंत महाजलादि शिष्यसंतति
सपरिवार्यैः । श्रीः ।

[TRANSLATION]

Lines 1-3

Hail ! During the victorious reign of the glorious Emperor Shah Jehan, the supreme Lord of all kings, in the year 1698 of the Samvat era, on Monday, the 5th day of the full moon of the month of Baisakha, is laid the foundation of the temple (dedicated to) Lord Vira, the Jina (the conqueror of passions) in the town of Pawapuri, made holy by the auspicious Nirvana of Lord Vira (or) Vardhamana Swami, the twenty-fourth Jinadhiraja.

Lines 4-17

By the Mahatiyana Shrisangha of the prosperous town of Bihar composed of—

1. Sangvi Tulasidasa—the leader of the Sangha, of Chopra Gotra, the ornament of the Mahatiyana Caste, the descendent of the family of Shri Dala (who was) minister-in-chief over all ministers of Chakravarti (Shri) Bharata, the great king, the eldest son of Rishava Jinaraja, the glorions with his wife Nihalo and son Sangvi Sangrama and younger brothers (by name) Govardhana, Tejapala and Bhojaraja.

2. Mantri (minister) Paramananda of Rohadiya Gotra with his family.

3. Thakkura Dulichand of Mahadha Gotra, specially active in the performance of religious duties.

4. Mantri Madana, Swnmidasa, Monohara, Knshala, and Sundaradasa of Kadrarha Gotra.
5. Putra (Son?) Mathuradasa, Narayanadasa, Giridhara Santadasa and Prasadi of Rohadiya Gotra.
6. Gujaramalla, Boodarhamalla, Mohanadasa, Manicka-chanda, Budamalla, Jethamalla, Thakkura Jagna Nurichanda of Vartidiya Gotra.
7. Thakkura Kalyanamalla, Mulukachanda, Sabhachanda of Nanhra Gotra.
8. Thakkura Simbhu Kirtipala, Baburaya, Keshabaraya and Suratisingha of Sanghela Gotra.
9. Dayaladasa, Bhovaladasa, Kripaladasa, and Mir Murari-dasa Kilu of Kadra Gotra.
10. Thakkura Rajapala and Ramachanda of Kana Gotra.
11. Kirtisingha of Mahadha Gotra.
12. Chhabichanda of Rohadiya Gotra.
13. Mantri Nathamala and Nandalala of Jajiyana Gotra.
14. Thakkura 'Sundaradasa, Nagaramalla and Kamaladasa of Nanhra Gotra.
15. Sundara, Surati, Murati and the powerful Pratapa of great fame of Rohadiya Gotra.
16. *Hemaraja, the landlord of Pahariya Gotra.*
17. Mohana, Sukhamalla, Thakkura Garamalla, Haradasa and Purushottama of Kana Gotra.
18. Biharidasa and Bindu of Minabana Gotra.
19. Medani, Bhagwana, Garibadasa and Jibana, resident of Shahrenapura (Shaharnpur) of Mahatiyana caste.
20. Malukachanda of Vajagara Gotra.
21. Sachalabandi and Santi of Jujha Gotra.
22. And Narasinga, Hira Gharamu, Uttama and Vardha-mana of Chopra Gotra and others.

Lines 17-18

And this temple is consecrated by the glorious Jinaraja Suri the illuminator of the (pontifical) seat, the foremost of the age and the disciple of Jinasingha Suri, the foremost of the age and the head of the great and prosperous Kharatara-Gachha by order of his revered and victorious preceptor.